WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SETTING UP OF FERTILIZER PLANTS WITH FOREIGN COLLABORATION

*127. DR. Z. A. AHMAD: SHRI NAWAL KISHORE: SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: SHRI S. B. BOBDEY: SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH': SHRI GANESHI LAL CHAUDH-ARY: SHRI GURUMUKH SINGH MUSA-SHRI J. S. TILAK: SHRI V. R. PARASHAR: SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATUR-VEDI: SHRI N. JOSEPH: SHRIMATI SATYAVATI DANG: SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: SHRI KRISHAN KANT: SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA'MENON SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: SHRI SITARAM KESRI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:

- (a) whether Government have decided to set up fertiliser plants with foreign collaboration, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether there is a proposal to enter into such collaborations with Japan, if so, the details in this regard and the steps taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH): (a) and (b) In the setting up fertilizer plants, minimum external assistance in terms of technical know-how in certain areas and foreign exchange

financing is still required. Some proposals in this regard have been received and are under consideration. These proposals include an offer based on Japanese assistance, which is also under consideration.

OIL EXPLORATION IN TRIPURA

*128. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that rich deposits of oil have been located in Tripura;
- (b) if so, whether Government have started exploration, and with what results; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that the exploration was delayed because of the difficulty in transport owing to the outbreak of hostilities on the eastern border?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH): (a) and (b) It is true that as a result of the surveys conducted till now, a number of favourable structures have been located in Tripura. The extent to which they are oil-bearing would be known only after they are tested through deep drilling. The ONGC has already started drilling at one of the structures, namely at Baramura, where operations are still in progress.

(c) No, Sir.

AGREEMENT FOR OIL DRILLING PLATFORM
WITH MITSUBISHI COMPANY OF

JAPAN

*129, DR. K. NAGAPPA ALVA: SHRI BANARSI DAS: SHRI GANESHI LAL CHAU-DHARY:

exchange CHEMICALS be pleased to state: